

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system to view multimedia content, the system comprising:
a broadcast center capable of being communicatively coupled to a network;
and
a plurality of client systems coupled to the broadcast center,
wherein the plurality of client systems are associated with a household,
wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other,
wherein the household is configurable to be associated with a plurality of user objects,
wherein a client system of the plurality of client systems is configured to be selectively accessed by a user to change a configuration of a user object of the plurality of user objects that is related to a favorites setting, and
wherein the system is configured to provide the change of the configuration of the user object related to the favorites setting to all of the client systems of the plurality of client systems without further activity from the user.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is configurable to selectively add a new client system to the plurality of client systems, the system being configured to provide the plurality of user objects, including the favorites setting, to the new client system without activity from a user.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein a user object of the plurality of user objects can be concurrently active in more than one client system of the plurality of client systems.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a server operatively coupled to the plurality of client systems, wherein the server is configured to include information related to each user object of the plurality of user objects, including the favorites setting.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the server is configured to include a revision history, the revision history being configurable to include information related to configuration changes of the plurality of user objects, including changes to the favorites setting.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein the revision history includes a ticket number associated with each configuration change that is included in the revision history.

7. The system of claim 4 wherein the server is capable to provide configuration changes to the plurality of client systems in response to a request for the configuration changes sent from at least one of the client systems.

8. The system of claim 4 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the client systems, the server is capable to provide configuration changes to the plurality of client systems if such configuration changes are received by the server from at least one of the client systems.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the favorites setting includes an address associated with the network.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the favorites setting includes a television channel.

11. A method to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:

receiving configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and

providing the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

receiving revised configuration information related to the user object via one of the access devices of the plurality of access devices, the revised configuration information including a revision to the favorites setting; and

providing the received revised configuration information, including the revision to the favorites setting, to all of the access devices of the plurality of access devices.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising assigning a ticket number to the revised configuration information.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising storing the ticket number in a revision history in a server of the multimedia communication network system.

15. A control system to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the control system comprising:

a server to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device, and

wherein the server is capable to provide the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

16. The control system of claim 15 wherein the server is further capable to receive revised configuration information related to the user object via one of the access devices of the plurality of access devices, the revised configuration information including a revision to the favorites setting, and to provide the received revised configuration information, including the revision to the favorites setting, to all of the access devices of the plurality of access devices.

17. The control system of claim 16 wherein the server is capable to assign a ticket number to the revised configuration information and to store the ticket number in a revision history.

18. The control system of claim 16 wherein the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices in response to a request for the revised configuration information sent from at least one of the access devices.

19. The control system of claim 16 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server from at least one of the access devices.

20. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium for use in a multimedia communication network having a plurality of access devices, the machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:

receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and

provide the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 20 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to:

assign a ticket number to the revised configuration information; and

store the ticket number in a revision history in a server of the multimedia communication network system.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 20 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices in response to a request for the revised configuration information sent from at least one of the access devices.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 20 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to provide, independently of a request from any one of the access devices, the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices if such revised configuration information is received from at least one of the access devices.

24. The article of manufacture of claim 21 wherein the configuration information includes values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to the favorites setting, the machine-readable medium further including instructions stored thereon to:

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and

provide the bit vector to one of the access devices.

24. An update method to provide configuration information related to user object of a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the configuration information including values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to a favorites setting, the method comprising:

receiving a portion of the configuration information including the favorites setting via an access device of the plurality of access devices;

assigning a ticket number to the received portion of the configuration information;

storing the ticket number in a revision history; and

providing the ticket number to the access device.

25. The update method of claim 24, further comprising:

setting a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and

providing the bit vector to the access device.

26. The update method of claim 25, further comprising providing the portion of the configuration information to a second access device of the plurality of access devices.

27. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium for use in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the configuration information including values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to a favorites setting, the machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:

receive a portion of the configuration information including the favorites setting via an access device of the plurality of access devices;

assign a ticket number to the received portion of the configuration information;

store the ticket number in a revision history; and

provide the ticket number to the access device.

28. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to:

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and

provide the bit vector to the access device.

29. The article of manufacture of claim 27 wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions stored thereon to provide the portion of the configuration information to a second access device of the plurality of access devices.

30. A method to provide configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network system having a server

and a plurality of access devices, the access devices of the plurality of access devices being associated with one or more households, the method comprising:

receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network system;

sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising:

receiving configuration information from the user, including another favorites setting, via the access device when the access device is the first access device of the household; and

providing to the server the configuration information received from the user.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising sending from the server a ticket number corresponding to the configuration information provided to the server.

33. An apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via an interactive video casting system having a plurality of channels, the interactive video casting system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a server located in the interactive video casting system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device,

wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device,

wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the interactive video casting system,

wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according to a communication protocol suitable to that access device.

34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the another access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server.

35. An apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via an interactive video casting system having a plurality of channels, the interactive video casting system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a server located in the interactive video casting system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device,

wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device,

wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the interactive video casting system,

wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according to a communication protocol suitable to that access device, the server further being capable to:

assign a ticket number to a portion of the received configuration information;

store the ticket number in a revision history;

provide the ticket number to the access device that sent the configuration information;

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and

provide the bit vector to the access device that sent the configuration information.

36. The apparatus of claim 35 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the another access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server.

37. An apparatus to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:

a means for receiving configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and

a means for providing the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

38. A system to provide configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network having a server and a plurality of access devices, the access devices of the plurality of access devices being associated with one or more households, the system comprising:

a means for receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network;

a means for sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

a means for sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household.